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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Annual Report

of the

*Medical Officer of
Health*

For the Year 1951



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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Seventeenth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1951	...	...	...	...	3669
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1951	...	...	...	...	£132,188
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£520
Population	...	...	...	...	12,554

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total		Males		Females
Births	249	...	130	...	119
Deaths	136	...	63	...	73
Birth Rate	19.9	...	Death Rate	10.8	
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	{	from Sepsis	...	Nil	
	{	from other causes	...	Nil	
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	...	4
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	16.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoeæ (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	..	...	...	3

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:—

		Total cases notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Dysentery	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Diphtheria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	... ..	Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	... ..	5	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	... ..	34	..	Nil	...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever		Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Malaria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	... ..	Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Meningitis	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
		<hr/> 43 <hr/>	...	<hr/> Nil <hr/>	...	<hr/> Nil <hr/>

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: G. W. Robinson, C.R.S.I. (Appointed April, 1951).

SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Friday from 2—4 p.m. Doctor and Health Visitors are in attendance, all other duties being carried out by members of the Voluntary Committee.

National Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are dispensed.

Babies are weighed and have medical treatment when necessary, and are immunised against Diphtheria. The average number of mothers attending every week with their babies and small children is 68. Toddlers are now attending the clinic on alternate Mondays and have sunlight treatment.

Immunisation and Vaccination by Clinic Doctor each Friday.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year. Immunisation and Vaccination are also carried out by all Medical Practitioners in the town.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Ophthalmologist attends at the Lumley Hotel on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy. There is a great need for more Hospital Accommodation for the aged and chronic sick. I would suggest that the Regional Hospital Board might consider whether the previous Skegness Isolation Hospital could be used for this purpose, after some modification.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

Nursing Homes.

Sandune Nursing Home is providing very good service in the care of maternity cases. Unfortunately this Nursing Home is closing down on 1st June, 1952.

GENERAL HEALTH.

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

DAY NURSERY.

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

I am pleased to note that your Council is making good progress with the building of new houses. More houses have been erected during the year. The urgent need is for more houses, including those for aged persons.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity.

Laboratory Report No. 5703.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

The sample of water marked Butlin House collected on 5.3.51 has been examined, and with the following results:—

Agar plate count, at 20°—22°C, for three days	...	=	11 per ml.
Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	... ..	=	3 per ml.
Faecal coli	... ..		not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli	...		none per 100 ml.
Enterococci	... ..		not found in 100 ml.
Cl. welchii (spores)	... ..		not found in 100 ml.

The results show this water to be highly satisfactory for drinking purposes.

(Signed) R. S. RALPH,
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Laboratory Director.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	7	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	76	90	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	—	—	—
Total ..	6	88	100	8	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)		—	—		
Overcrowding (S.2)		—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient		1	1	1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective		4	4	1	
(c) Not separate for sexes		3	3	1	2
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		—	—		
Total ..		8	8	3	2

Meat and Food.

There is one Ministry of Food Abattoir in this Urban Area, and visits are paid by your Council's Meat Inspectors during hours of slaughter. A detailed report of the number of animals killed, and the action taken with respect to the number of animals inspected and the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption, will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. The area served by this Abattoir is the Urban Area, the Urban Area of Mablethorpe and parts of the Spilsby Rural District, the population being served approximately 50,000. Shops, stalls and other premises where food is prepared have been regularly inspected and records kept.

Milk Supply.

I consider the milk supply in this town is excellent. With the exception of approximately fifty gallons per day, all the milk sold is Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted during the year:—

Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	..	...	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	4

Six samples of milk submitted for biological examination gave a negative result. Seventeen samples of milk gave satisfactory results.

Ice Cream.

Twenty-eight samples of ice cream were sent to the Analyst, who reports on the samples as follows:—

Grade I — 14	...	Grade II — 5
Grade III — 5	...	Grade IV — 4

Regular visits are made to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold by retail, and help and advice given where necessary.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the area. All the bakehouses are of a good type, clean and well kept, and give little or no cause for complaint.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis, Skegness Bathing Pool:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

Agar plate count, at 20°—22°C, for three days	= 3 per ml.
Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	= 2 per ml.
Faecal coli	not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli	none per 100 ml.
Enterococci	not found in 100 ml.

The results show this water to be safe for bathing purposes.

Factories.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography and upholstery.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.),
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1951.

Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year ...	32
(I.) By the Local Authority ...	24
(II.) By other Local Authorities ...	Nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons ...	8
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—	
(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	344
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	740
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	339
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	331

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:—	
(1) No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
(II) Number of families dwelling therein ...	2
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	11
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding re- ported during the year	5
(c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases	27
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	—

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

(a) No. of applications for grants received ...	Nil
(b) No. of grants made	Nil
(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority	Nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—

No. of site licences	13
No. of individual licences	Nil
No. inspected during year—Sites	13
Dwellings	
No. of contraventions remedied	Nil

FOOD PREMISES.

Bakehouses—

No. in district	9
†No. of inspections	27
No. of contraventions	3
Defects remedied	3

Control of Milk Supplies—

No. of distributors on register	46
No. of dairies on register	4
No. of Inspections of dairies	16
Contraventions remedied	Nil
No. of milk samples taken : Satisfactory ...	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Ice Cream and Meat Products—

No. of manufacturers : (a) Ice Cream	12
(b) Meat Products	17
No. of premises registered for sale of Ice Cream ...	98
No. of Contraventions found	3
No. of Contraventions remedied	3
No. of samples of ice-cream taken Grade I	14
Grade II	5
Grade III	5
Grade IV	4

Slaughter-houses—

No. on register	Government Slaughter House
†No. of inspections	708
Contraventions of by-laws	—
Defects remedied	—

Other Food Premises—

No. of inspections	70
No. of Contraventions found	12
No. of Contraventions remedied	12

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	2312	823	745	5392	1152
Number inspected	2312	823	745	5392	1152
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	8	20	20	12	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	175	157	25	36	52
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	7.8	17.8	6.0	0.8	4.0
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	19	39	3	Nil	30
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	222	274	Nil	Nil	54
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	10.4	38.0	0.4	Nil	9.2

Other Foods Condemned

Tinned Meat and Fish, etc.	3,124 Tins	Pickles	10 Jars
Pork	47 lbs.	Sausages	34 lbs.
Mussels	2 Cwts.	Cheese	34 lbs.
Fish	4 Stones	Minced Beef	28 lbs.
Cake	7½ lbs.	Ham	48 lbs.
Chocolate Biscuits . .	80½ lbs.	Ice Cream Blocks . .	9 Cases
Custard Powder . .	56 lbs.	Chocolate	25 Bars
Chocolate Sponge Pdr	16½ lbs.	Synthetic Cream Mixture	1 lb.
Kippers	5 Boxes	Beef	15 lbs.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district	33
No. of pail closets repaired	1
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district	3,636
No. of water-closets repaired	17

Drains—

Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	27
„ unstopped, repaired, &c.	47
Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, &c.	7
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired	5

Sewers—

New lengths of sewer laid	Nil
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Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.—

Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	No

Cesspools—

Cesspools emptied, cleansed, &c.	Weekly
„ abolished	Nil

GENERAL.

Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in district	Nil
†No. of Inspections	Nil
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Knackers Yards—

No. Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Shops Act, 1950—

Number of shops inspected	...	...	...	...	50
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	5

WATER SUPPLY.**Wells—**

New sunk	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Closed as polluted	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Public Supply—

*Area supplied	...	...	...	...	...	100%
Percentage of houses internal supply	...	...	...	...	...	100%
communal supply	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of samples obtained for analysis	...	...	...	...	...
(a) from wells	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) from public supply	...	...	...	...	...	7
Any insufficiency and where	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Disinfection, etc.—

Rooms disinfected :

(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	...	...	...	21
(p) tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	12
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	6

House Refuse—

No. of houses using dustbins	...	...	...	...	3,669
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger ?	...	...	...	...	By Council
How frequently is refuse removed from each house ?	...	...	...	...	Weekly
No. of complaints of non-removal	...	...	...	...	Practically Nil
Method of final disposal	...	...	...	...	Controlled Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory ?	...	...	...	...	Yes

Nuisances—

Total Number of Nuisances during year :

(1)	Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	65
(2)	Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	7
	Statutory notice not issued	19

Details of Nuisances Abated—

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	3	—
Accumulation of Refuse	11	—
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	1	—
Fowls, pigs and other animals	7	—
Dampness	47	—
Yards repaved or repaired	3	—
Other nuisances	—	—

Rats and Mice Destruction—

No. of rodent operatives employed	One
No. of Premises treated :	
(a) Dwelling houses	890
(b) Other Premises	58
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No

Supplementary remarks as to sanitary requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries :

Rodent Control Visits	39
Infectious Disease Visits	27
Miscellaneous Visits—including salvage and house refuse removal and disposal	824

